

Message Text

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73

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 281403Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4591

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF TWO NAIROBI 8130

EXDIS

REVIEW OF KENYA'S CURRENT MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN
TERMS OF AIRCRAFT, MISSILES, OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS,
AND MANPOWER. KENYATTA CONTINUES TO FEEL STRONGLY
THAT EMPHASIS IN KENYAN ARMED FORCES MUST BE ON "QUALITY"
AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO INCREASES IN MANPOWER.
KENYATTA BELIEVES ABOVE ALL THAT STEPS SHOULD BE AVOIDED
WHICH WOULD DIVERT RESOURCES FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
KIEREINI MENTIONED THAT AN ISRAELI HAD RECENTLY TOLD HIM
THAT LATEST MID-EAST WAR HAD CONVINCED ISRAELIS
THAT QUALITY ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH TO ASSURE VICTORY.
KIEREINI INTENDS TO MAKE THIS POINT AND TO RESUBMIT
HIS PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN KENYAN ARMED FORCES TO
KENYATTA UPON COMPLETION OF CURRENT DEFENSE REVIEW.

6. KIEREINI SAID THAT MAJOR OBSTACLE TO FURTHER
STRENGTHENING OF KENYAN ARMED FORCES WOULD BE FINANCIAL
AND ECONOMIC. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KENYATTA ON THIS

SUBJECT HE HAD RAISED POSSIBILITY (HE DESCRIBED
IT AS "THINKING ALOUD") OF SEEKING ADDITIONAL
MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM FRIENDLY COUNTRIES INCLUDING U.S.

7. WHEN I COMMENTED THAT REQUEST FOR U.S. MILITARY
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ASSISTANCE WOULD APPEAR TO REPRESENT MAJOR DEPARTURE
FROM KENYA'S PRESENT POLICY OF AVOIDING ARMS SUPPLY
RELATIONSHIPS WITH EITHER SUPERPOWER, HE AT FIRST
AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT POLICY OF BALANCE COULD PERHAPS

BE MAINTAINED BY PROCURRING NEEDED ARMS FROM BOTH SOVIET UNION AND U.S. (UP UNTIL NOW KENYAN OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY TOLD US SOVIET ARMS OFFERS HAVE BEEN PROMTLY AND FIRMLY REBUFFED; THIS IS FIRST INDICATION OF POSSIBLE KENYAN RECEPTIVITY TO ACCEPTING SUCH ASSISTANCE.)

8. BEFORE LEAVING, I ASSURED KIEREINI THAT IN EVENT PRESIDENT KENYATTA DOES EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO REQUEST

ARMS ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. I WOULD, OF COURSE, RELAY ANY SUCH REQUEST TO WASHINGTON. I CAUTIONED HIM, HOWEVER, THAT PROSPECTS FOR FAVORABLE RESPONSE ON OUR PART TO SUCH REQUEST WERE QUITE POOR IN VIEW OF CONGRESSIONAL UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. I POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE IN MEETING DEFENSE NEEDS OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS ETHIOPIA WITH WHOM WE HAVE HAD LONG-STANDING DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS.

9. I BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE THAT KIEREINI AND OTHERS WILL EVENTUALLY CONVINCE PRESIDENT KENYATTA THAT ADDITIONAL MILITARY STRENGTH, ABOVE AND BEYOND ARMS ORDERED FROM BRITISH EARLIER THIS YEAR (REF A), WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO KENYA'S SECURITY. SINCE BRITISH UNLIKELY TO BE WILLING PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GRANTS OR CONCESSIONARY CREDITS SO SOON AFTER RECENT AGREEMENT, GOK MAY WELL APPROACH US WITH REQUEST FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH CONTINGENCY

GUIDANCE IN EVENT SUCH APPROACH IS MADE.
LINDSTROM

SECRET

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TAGS: MARR, MASS, KE, SO, UG, (KIEREINI)
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